

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Frus et al.

Art Unit: 2821

Application No. Continuation of 09/519,545

Examiner: Philogene, H.

Filed: March 1, 2002

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
CONTROLLABLY GENERATING
SPARKS IN AN IGNITION SYSTEM OR
THE LIKE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, before the heading "Field of the Invention" on line 3, add the following paragraph:

--This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application number 09/519,545 filed March 6, 2000, U.S. Patent number 6,353,293. 09/519,545 is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application number 08/922,242, filed September 2, 1997, U.S. Patent number 6,034,483. 08/922,242 is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application number 08/502,713, filed July 14, 1995, U.S. Patent number 5,754,011. This application is entitled to the earliest filing date pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §120--

IN THE CLAIMS:

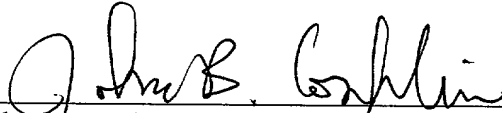
Cancel claims 2-73

REMARKS

Conclusion

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



John B. Conklin, Reg. No. 30,369
One of the Attorneys for Applicant(s)
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

Date: March 1, 2002

2002 MAR 1 10 00 AM

In re Appln. of Frus et al.
Attorney Docket: 215972

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Preliminary Amendment and all accompanying documents are being deposited with the United States Postal Service “Express Mail Post Office To Addressee” Service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date:

3/1/02

Virginia Scheffo

[illegible]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Frus et al.

Application No. Continuation of 09/519,545

Art Unit: 2821

Filed: March 1, 2002

Examiner: Philogene, H.

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
CONTROLLABLY GENERATING
SPARKS IN AN IGNITION SYSTEM
OR THE LIKE

PENDING CLAIMS AFTER ENTRY OF PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

1. An apparatus for controllably generating sparks, the apparatus comprising, in combination:

a spark generating device;

at least two output stages connected to the spark generating device, each of the output stages including: (1) an energy storage device to store energy; (2) a controlled switch for selectively discharging the energy storage device; and (3) a network for transferring the energy discharged by the energy storage device to the spark generating device;

means for charging the energy storage devices and at least partially isolating the energy storage device of each output stage from the energy storage devices of the other output stages; and,

a logic circuit connected to the controlled switches of the at least two output stages for selectively triggering the output stages to transfer their stored energy to the spark generating device to generate a spark.